Serial No. 10/010,883
Art Unit: 1713

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15 (canceled)

16. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product consisting essentially of: A) at least one epihalohydrin or trihaloalkane and B) at least one alkoxylated alcohol, wherein the mole ratio of component A) to component B) is from about 0.60:1 to about 2:1.

17. (withdrawn)

18. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is added subsequent to carrying out emulsion polymerization with the emulsion polymer composition.

19. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said mole ratio is from about 0.8:1 to about 2:1.

20. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein said emulsion-stabilizing quantity is in the range of from about 0.1 to about 5.0% by weight, based on solids.

21. (withdrawn)

22. (withdrawn)

23. (withdrawn)

24. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition is a vinyl acrylic emulsion polymer composition.

25. (original) The method of claim 16 wherein the emulsion polymer composition also contains at least one other emulsifier.

Serial No. 10/010,883
Art Unit: 1713

26. (currently amended) A method of stabilizing an emulsion polymer composition comprising adding to an emulsion polymerization composition an emulsion-stabilizing quantity of a branched polymeric base-catalyzed reaction product consisting essentially of:

A) at least one compound of formula I

$$R^1(X)_3 \qquad (I)$$

wherein each X group is a halogen atom or one X group is a halogen atom and two X groups represent an epoxy oxygen atom, which is attached to two adjacent carbon atoms in the R^1 group to form an epoxy group, and R^1 is an alkanetriyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms; and

B) at least one compound of the formula II

$$R(OE)_n(OP)_mOH \qquad (II)$$

wherein R is a saturated or unsaturated organic group having from 3 to 22 carbon atoms, n is a number of from 1 to 50, m is a number of from 0 to 10, EO represents an ethyleneoxy group, and OP represents a propyleneoxy group.

27. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, R in component B) is an alkyl group.

28. (original) The method of claim 27 wherein R is an alkyl group containing from 3 to 10 carbon atoms.

29. (original) The method of claim 28 wherein the alkyl group contains from 8 to 10 carbon atoms.

Serial N . 10/010,883
Art Unit: 1713

30. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein in said reaction product, n in component B) is a number of from 3 to about 50 and m is zero.

31. (original) The method of claim 26 wherein the degree of polymerization of said reaction product is from about 2.0 to about 6.0.

32. (withdrawn)

33. (withdrawn)